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Navy Medicine Grieving The Loss Of Two Of Its Own
By Brian Badura, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

WASHINGTON - Navy Medicine mourns the loss of two colleagues today, Capt. David Brown, Medical Corps, and Cmdr. Laurel Blair Salton Clark, Medical Corps. Both were aboard the space shuttle Columbia when it broke apart Saturday during its final descent.

Brown and Clark participated in shuttle mission STS-107 as mission specialists. During the 16-day flight, their skills helped to further research on many medical, scientific and environmental experiments. This was their first trip into space.

"Today, the thoughts and prayers of the entire Navy Medicine community go out to the Brown and Clark families and the families of the other crewmembers lost in this tragedy," said Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Michael L. Cowan, Medical Corps. "We will always remember the significant contributions and adventurous spirit of two of our finest professionals."

Before joining the astronaut program in 1996, both worked as flight surgeons and gained extensive operational experience throughout their careers.

Brown also earned his naval aviator designation, graduating first in his class. Clark worked extensively in the undersea community, with qualifications including diving medical officer and submarine medical officer.

Five other crewmembers died in the accident, including mission pilot Navy Cmdr. William McCool, Air Force Col. Rick Husband, Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, Israeli Air Force Col. Ilan Ramon, and Kalpana Chawla, Ph.D.

Biographies of our colleagues and their fellow crewmembers are available at the NASA Website, <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

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